MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C74
was approved as Minute Item
No. 74 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to Ø at its 10/17/95
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C74

A: 1, 6, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 27, 33, 35, 37, 41, 53, 54, 67, 70, 73, 74, 78

S: 2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 15, 18, 19, 23, 27, 28, 35, 38, 39, 40

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CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION STAFF TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) TO ESTABLISH STRUCTURAL GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING INTEGRITY OF MARINE TERMINALS AND RELATED FACILITIES DURING SEISMIC EVENTS AND TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND SUCH FUNDS AS ARE RECEIVED

APPLICANT:

The State Lands Commission

PROPOSAL:

The Staff of the State Lands Commission proposes to submit an application for a grant of $358,000 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The funds, if granted, are intended for use in establishing standards and guidelines for assessing the ability of marine terminals and related structures in California to withstand seismic events.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. 42 U.S.C. Section 5170c
B. 44 CFR Part 206, Subpart N
C. P.R.C. : Div. 7.8

AB 884:

N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

Recent earthquakes in Southern California and Japan has revealed potential vulnerabilities in this States' port structures. The Northridge event severely damaged numerous pipelines, and the Kobe earthquake caused all but four of the port's 256 berths to be destroyed or rendered unusable. The problem has both environmental and economic consequences: the collapse of port structures will likely cause the release of tremendous quantities of oil and hazardous substances into marine waters, and potential financial losses to the State from extended closure of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have been estimated at up to $380 billion.

The Commission has a direct interest in this matter because of its responsibilities for regulating marine terminals used in transferring oil to and from tankers and barges. In the Port of Los Angeles alone, there are 29 oil berths, the average age of which is 55 years. Under the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act, the Commission is required to ensure its regulations governing these facilities provide the best achievable protection of public health and safety and of the environment.

While evaluating these terminals, Staff has discovered that there are no government or industry standards for assessing their structural integrity. Ordinary building standards cannot adequately be applied to such marine structures.

Under this proposal, this deficiency could be largely remedied. Consultant services would be employed to develop performance standards meeting the statutorily mandated "best achievable protection" standard. Terminal operators and members of the academic community would also be consulted throughout this stage. Once the standards are drafted, public hearings would allow further input. Finally, once the standards are established, they would be used in ongoing oversight of design and inspection programs.

Staff has determined that at least $478,000 will be needed for the program. Through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, FEMA is authorized to grant up to 75% of program costs to address these kinds of problems. The proposed application would therefore be for the amount of $358,000, with the remaining $120,000 covered through redirection of existing resources.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT ANY AND ALL APPLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY FOR A GRANT FROM THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM MANAGED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) IN AN AMOUNT STAFF DEEMS APPROPRIATE TO PAY FOR COSTS AND EXPENDITURES INCURRED IN DEVELOPING AND ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT OF MARINE TERMINALS AND RELATED FACILITIES RELATING TO SEISMIC EVENTS.

2. AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT STAFF TO EXPEND THOSE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH THE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR WHICH THE FUNDS ARE SOUGHT.